

**II. Correspondence Address**

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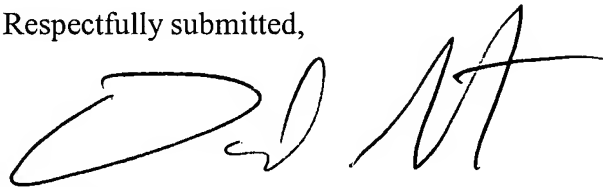
\* \* \* \* \*

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

A check is enclosed to cover the filing fee for this application. If there is ever a deficiency or an overpayment under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions arise that can be handled over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this **Preliminary Amendment** is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as **Express Mail** in a package addressed to: **BOX PCT, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C., 20231** on January 16, 2002.

Lana B. Ekiss

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